Amendment of Factories Act

189. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the "Business Standard" dated 3rd January, 2001 under the caption "CII Government Pact on Labour Law";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Labour have agreed to delete Section 2(n) of Factory Act and to leave the matter of Bonus entitlement to employer; and

(c) if so, whether Government have initiated a discussion with the Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry to delete Section 2(n) of the Factories Act, 1948 and also to leave the matter of bonus entitlement to employer.

(c) Does not arise.

National Commission on Child Labour

190. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Commission on Child Labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the above Commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic condition and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children is prohibited in occupations/processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment condition of children in other occupations and processes is regulated under the Act.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects. Under the scheme, special schools have been set up with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. So far, 96 Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned in child labour endemic States for coverage of nearly 2.0 lakh children. This issue was also deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Court has given several directions in their judgement dated 10.12.96, including payment of compensation by the employers employing children in hazardous occupations. The Government has already taken a number of steps to implement these directions.

(d) In view of the above, does not arise.

Hindi Salahakar Samiti in Ministry of Labour

191. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when was Hindi Salahakar Samiti was re-constituted recently in his Ministry;

(b) the number of sittings of the Samiti held during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts made to conduct its meetings regularly?